



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol.4, Issue 2
February 1, 2003

Calendar Of Events

Mar 1, 9am-3pm	Horticultural Extravaganza, St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Mar 3, 6:30-8pm	4-H Lawn Mowing Class, St. Luke's Room 19
Mar 4, 9:30am	Master Gardener Training Planning Meeting, Yorkminster
Mar 5, 9:30am-12pm	Using Office Resources, Extension office, pre-registration required
Mar 8, 9am-12pm	Home Gardener Program, St. Joan of Arc Church, <i>Beginning a Garden</i> ,
Mar 8	VMGA Program, Virginia State University, see current article in Green Thumb
Mar 10, 6:30-8pm	4-H Lawn Mowing Class, St. Luke's Room 19
Mar 11, 9:30am	Programming Meeting, St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Mar 11,	Hort Extravaganza follow up meeting, immediately following programming meeting
Mar 15, 9am-12pm	Home Gardener Program, St. Joan of Arc Church, <i>What to do for your garden</i> ,
Mar 17, 6:30-8pm	4-H Lawn Mowing Class, St. Luke's Room 19
Mar 22, 9am-12pm	Home Gardener Program, St. Joan of Arc Church, <i>Selecting plants for the landscape</i> ,
Mar 24, 6:30-8pm	4-H Lawn Mowing Class, St. Luke's Room 19
Mar 25, 9:30am	General Membership Meeting, St. Luke's fellowship hall
Mar 26, 7-8pm	Mathews Winter Lecture Series, Kingston Parish House, <i>Drought Tolerant Plants</i>
Mar 29, 9 am-12pm	Home Gardener Program, St. Joan of Arc Church, <i>Pests and their control</i>
Mar 31, 6:30-8pm	4-H Lawn Mowing Program, St. Luke's Room 19
Apr 26	Gardening 2003, CNU Science Building, www.cnu.edu , contact Barbara Dunbar
May 3	Learning Garden Plant Sale
May 29, 6:30pm	4-H Chrysanthemum Program meeting, York County Extension Office
June 18-21	International Master Gardener Conference, www.mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003/

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Wanda Turner at 898-0653, e-mail: wgt00@cox.net. The deadline for the Green Thumb is **ALWAYS the 15th** of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement: *Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.*

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Virginia Institute of Government Inquiry

The following communication will be of interest to you, as a Master Gardener. A member of the Virginia Institute of Government has requested the following assistance:

INQUIRY: Seeking feedback on how local governments are responding to recent reductions in local and regional Cooperative Extension Service activities and staffing.

SPECIFICALLY: Given encouraged retirements and layoffs, and lack of plans to redistribute remaining staff, how is your community responding to/dealing with the dramatic reductions in services/activities?

Tedd E. Povar
Technical Assistance Director
Virginia Institute of Government
700 E. Franklin Street, Suite 700
Richmond, VA 23219

Mr. Povar,
Your inquiry concerning the budget reductions incurred by Virginia Cooperative Extension was forwarded to us by several people. We would be happy to supply information to help you with this request. In short, our state funding has been cut by approximately \$11 million or almost 20 percent during this fiscal year. Obviously, reductions of such magnitude and in such a short time frame have had a drastic impact on our people and their activities. If you need greater detail, please feel free to contact me. However, the language in your inquiry appears to be based on some misconceptions, and thus, are misleading. First, there was no desire on our part to reduce either personnel or our educational programs. Such actions were forced on us by this very significant loss of funds. Unfortunately, as with many public and private organizations faced with budget crisis, part of our strategy had to be reductions in personnel and activities. I don't believe that "encouraged retirements and layoffs" is appropriate in light of the situation. We simply had no choice. In addition, the assertion that there is a "lack of plans" is totally inaccurate. To the contrary, we have spent a great deal of time and energy in planning how we can continue to provide the greatest degree of programs and services possible. Both constituents and local governments have been involved in these planning efforts. Our plans include keeping every local office open and to be able to respond to constituent requests. We have an extensive array of informational resources available via our World Wide Web site (www.ext.vt.edu). We also have plans that will enable us to carry out mandated responsibilities, such as agricultural damage assessments, drought monitoring, serving as members of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and providing pesticide-application certification and recertification programs.

In order to clear up these issues, we would like to contact those who submitted this inquiry. Please let us know how we can contact them. As I said, we have worked with local governments during these difficult times. We would be happy to hear other ideas, so please forward the responses you receive to us. Thank you for your assistance and we look forward to working with you and your members.

Sincerely,

Charlie Stott
University Relations,
Director, Agri. & Extension Communications
202 Media Building (0133)
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA. 24061

Notes from Jim

Resignation of Diane Fulton

Diane Fulton resigned her position as the Extension Agent, 4-H. As you are aware, the state is in a hiring freeze. This is designed to help with savings to the budget. The length of the freeze is not known. At this point, there are some critical functions in 4-H that need support from Cooperative Extension. Jody and I are trying to fill those needs. We are working with the County of York to develop a plan to bridge the program and to keep it maintained. I will keep you informed of our progress. The process will be deliberate and efforts will be focused to bridge this situation with the best solution. If you have thoughts, please share them with Jim at 890-4944.

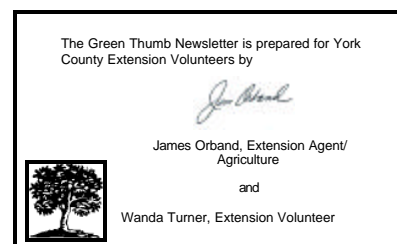
Situation of Jody Painter

Jody's Reserve Unit was called to active duty on Friday, January 10. Jody has not been activated, because of some medical clearances that she needs. However, she has been asked to perform some additional regular drills. It is still possible that once she has medical clearance (this should be soon), she could be called for homeland defense, or to assist in the absence of the active duty staff at Cheatham Annex. We will continue to keep you informed about this situation.

Presently, Jody is readying the ACCESS program and training two volunteers in its use. Jody has the website up to date and is training a 4-H volunteer on how to program it to keep our site up to date. We have made arrangements with the Newport News Extension Office to have a secretary come to our office once a week in her absence. Master Gardeners are coming in every morning from 9-12noon to assist with phones and other duties.

4-H Camp

4-H Summer Residential Camp scheduled for June 30 through July 4 filled up in 6 hours. We have a waiting list developing now and it is becoming quite long. I will be looking for adults (males and females) to camp with us. If interested, or know some other brave soul, contact me at 890-4944.



Upcoming Events

TAP Series

The first seminar in the TAP Series – *Trees Are Priceless* – at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens is scheduled for Thursday, February 13th from 7-9pm. For more info on series, see January issue of Green Thumb. Also, if interested in carpooling, contact Karen Ward @ 868-8384

Maymont Flower and Garden Show

We are going to the garden show on Thursday Feb. 20th and we must be there before 8 a.m. for early admission. If you are interested and have not gotten a brochure you can get all the information on speakers and the show on the Maymont web-site at www.maymont.org. In order to get in at 8 a.m. we have to have 10 or more people who have bought their tickets and have them in hand. You cannot get in if you are not with the group when we enter at 8 a.m. In that case you will have to wait in line for the 9 a.m. opening. Advance tickets are \$12 and may be purchased at McDonald's in Hampton, or at The Greener Side and Cooke's Gardens both in Williamsburg. I suggest you buy tickets early, they have run out locally in the past. The Speakers Series are free with show admission. Limited advance reservations are available for \$5 per lecture. Reservations are accepted thru Feb. 18th on a space available basis by calling 804-358-7166, ext. 310.

We will be carpooling and leaving the parking lot across from the Extension Office, closest to the Learning Garden, at 6:30 a.m. We do have a 7 passenger county van at present that has 3 people so far. If you want to be on that van give me a call at 868-8646 or e-mail me at www.captmi@cox.net. First come first serve. You can arrange your own carpool or show up and see if there is an empty seat with another. PLEASE BE THERE WELL ENOUGH AHEAD OF 6:30 a.m., because we will be leaving at 6:30 a.m. - not gathering then. You can certainly drive on up alone without meeting us at the Extension Office but be sure and be at the door before 8 a.m.

Address is: Greater Richmond Convention Center Exhibit Hall, Corner of 5th & Marshall Streets, Richmond, VA. From I-64 West Bound: Exit #190 5th Street Exit. Proceed to Marshall Avenue. Call or write me with any questions: Eleanor Hill

Winter Lecture Series

The Mathews Master Gardeners invites the public to their annual free Winter Lecture Series. The following programs are scheduled:

- Great New Rebloomers : Daylilies, Iris, and Azaleas will be the topic on Thursday, February 27th from 7-8PM at the Kingston Parish House in Mathews Court House. Linda Pinkham, co-owner of Smithfield Gardens for 30 years will present this lecture and slide show.
- Drought Tolerant Plants: This lecture will take place on Wednesday, March 26th from 7-8PM, also at the Kingston Parish House. Our York County Extension Agent, Jim Orband, will present it.

A donation of a non-perishable food item for the food pantry would be appreciated. For further details call VA Tech Extension Office at (804) 725-7196. **Directions:** Follow Rt. 17 North to Rt. 14. Take a right onto Rt. 14 (towards Gloucester Court House). At first stoplight take a right. Follow about 16 miles to a "t" intersection. Turn right. At the next stop sign take a right onto Main Street. Go through court house area. Just past Christie Chevrolet will be Kingston Parish House on the right.

2003 Horticultural Extravaganza

Due to the tremendous response from our MG volunteers, the 2003 Horticultural Extravaganza to be held March 1, is off to a great start. Follow-up planning meeting is February 11 at St. Luke's immediately following the regularly scheduled MG planning meeting. Evaluation meeting is March 11 at St. Luke's at 11:30 A.M.

Coordinators: Laurice Becker
Marge Schenck

Help Your Kids Rev Up Their (Lawn Mower) Engines

Do you have a young family member or neighbor interested in mowing lawns? Or, perhaps YOU are interested in having a young family member or neighbor mow YOUR lawn! In either case, the extension office offers a class to help that young person do the job safely, correctly and profitably.

4-H is again offering its well-attended program on lawn mowing for children ages 10 and up. This class is designed for those interested in starting their own business or learning how to properly mow their own lawn. The class entails six hours of instruction, a proficiency exam and presentation of a certificate upon completion. Topics include "There's No Business Like Mow Business", " Know What You Mow", "Mowing Safety", and "Mower Maintenance". All classes are taught by Master Gardeners.

"MONDAYS IN MARCH" will remind interested students that the class will be held March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Classes will be held in room 19 of St. Luke's Church on Ella Taylor Road in Yorktown. Last year's class filled quickly. Call the York County Extension Office (890-4940) to register. Students do not need to be York County residents to attend. If you have any questions contact Teri at tcheslak@cox.net.

An Organic Garden of Eden

VMGA is sponsoring a program on Saturday, March 8, 2003, at Virginia State University by Professor Andy Hankins, a noted organic horticulturist. He will discuss vegetables, herbs, exotic mushrooms, composting, natural pest control and fresh cut flowers during the morning session. In the afternoon registrants may choose one of the following: Selecting and building small scale home greenhouses for bedding plants and vegetables by Chris Mullins, VSU, or Success with Dahlias by Lynn Trott, MG from James City County. The program will end with a tour of the VSU greenhouses, aquaponics and hydroponics facilities at Randolph Farms on the grounds of Virginia State University.

Registration forms may be taken off the VMGA website (www.vmga.net) or provided by Jackie Lohr 898-5741. Let Jackie know if you are interested so that she can put you in contact with others who may want to car pool.

Home Gardener Program

The spring session of the Home Gardener Program is to be held Saturdays in March, beginning March 8, through the 29th. Fall session begins October 11 through November 1. The fee for the classes is \$20 per session or \$10 if you have the textbook. We will be using the same textbook as was used last year. The class will be held at St. Joan of Arc Church on Rt. 17, from 9am until 12 noon. Coordinators: Carol Kohten, Wanda Evans

Gardening 2003 – The Glory of Gardening

Plans for the 6th annual gardening symposium, Gardening 2003, are underway and everything is coming together nicely. The event is to be held on April 26, at Christopher Newport University. This one-day educational program combines a keynote speaker, educational workshops, plant sales, and gardening clubs. Keynote speaker will be Mr. Paul Davis of Riverbend Farms. His topic will be “Extreme Gardens, Extreme Perennials”.

Proposed Workshop topics and speakers are as follows:

- Dave Bankes *“Local Favorite Gardens Inspire Ideas”*
- Jim Orband *“Ferns For the Garden – More Than a Woodsy Critter”*
- Linda Johnson *“Native Plants – The ‘Local Yokels’ in the Garden”*
- Barbara Schuler *“Water Gardening – H2O for Show”*
- Peggy Kroff *“Perennials – Friends Don’t Let Friends Buy Annuals”*
- Chip Powell *“Garden Lighting - Seeing the Garden for the Trees”*

Preregistration is required and lunch is included. Pamphlets will be available at the extension office at a later date. York County MG representative is Barbara Dunbar.

Learning Garden Plant Sale

The Learning Garden is busy preparing for our May 3rd plant sale. We have already potted up and labeled many plants. The following are some that we don’t have, that we believe would be really great sellers:

Shasta Daisies	Ferns
Echinacea – Purple Cone Flower	Heuchera
Nippon Daisies	Hostas
Hellebores	Monks Hood
Hydrangea	Camellias
Phlox	Columbine
Veronica	Corydalis

If you have or can get any of these, please label and bring them to the learning garden by April 10th. That would allow us time to pot them up, price and thoroughly label them. Thanks so much. Carol Brower

Informative Newsletter

For a great review, go to www.vbmg.org/GardenNewsletterJan2003.doc. There you will find an informative gardening newsletter put out by a fellow Master Gardener from Chesapeake. It includes such things as gardening tips for Hampton Roads, among many other helpful things.

Hours

I have been trained and am ready to get you caught up on your "bookkeeping"! I will accept your hours via email, leave in the office folder, or hand to me at any time. I can send you a summary of your hours via email if you request it.

Remember, if you are counting hours as training, continuing, or advanced training (all mean the same thing) please write down the **event**. The computer won't let me input your hours without naming an event. Your only other choices are Public Education (direct contact with the public) or Administrative Support. We're trying to keep this quick and easy for you! Remember the 4 bits of info I need: Date, Event, Hours, and Category. You can divide hours on the same day between two categories, just make it clear to me. And lastly, if you are a coordinator and would like to keep hours for your committee, I'll gladly accept that too. Questions???? Terry Hanson, hanson5t@cox.net or 872-9639

FOR SALE - EMBROIDERED WORK SHIRT

YCMG denim work shirt size XL (56" measurement) is for sale for \$26.00. Shirt has YCMG logo embroidered above pocket and can be personalized for an extra \$6.50. Please contact Evelyn Parker 868-0496 / parkerew@aol.com if interested.

E-MAIL UPDATES

Please make note of the following e-mail updates:

Carl Ennis - cennis@cox.net

Eleanor Hill - captmi@cox.net

Mary Frances Baker - maryfrancesbaker@hotmail.com

**Virginia Cooperative Extension
York County Office
100 County Drive
PO Box 532
Yorktown VA 23690-0532
(757) 890-4940 / Fax 890-4033
jorband@vt.edu**

We're on the Web!

www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

FEBRUARY 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 10am-12pm Pruning Clinic True Value Hdw.
2	3	4 9:30-11:30am Master Gardener Training Planning Mtg. - Yorkminster	5	6	7 9:30am-12 noon Using Office Resources Pre- registration required	8 10am-12pm Pruning Clinic Grafton Area 10am VMGA Brd. Public Safety Bldg. Mtg. Rm.
9	10 Deadline for Search for Excellence Awards	11 9:30 am Programming Mtg. St. Luke's	12	13 7-9 pm TAP seminar at Norfolk Botanical Gardens – see GT article	14	15 10am-12pm Pruning Clinic Bruton Area
16	17	18	19	20 Maymont See GT article	21 Maymont	22 Maymont 10am-12pm Pruning Clinic Ken Matthews Landscape Nursery
23 Maymont	24	25	26	27 7-8 pm free Mathews Winter Lecture Series, Kingston Parish See GT article	28	1 9am-3pm Hort. Extravaganza St. Luke's